

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to reduce multiple dependencies and filing fees, without prejudice.

A petition has been filed to extend copendency of the parent application Serial No. 09/403,980, to at least the filing date of the present application.

The specification has been amended above to include a cross-reference to the parent application.

The specification has been amended above to include the amendments to the specification made in the parent application Serial No. 09/403,980.

The specification has been amended to include the Sequence Listing filed July 26, 2002, in the parent application Serial No. 09/403,980. No new matter has been added. A separate Request for the Patent Office to use the computer readable copy of the Sequence Listing filed July 26, 2002, in the parent application Serial No. 09/403,980, is separately attached.

Attached is a copy of the originally-filed English translation of the PCT application containing 41 pages wherein claims 1-31 were contained on pages 36-41. The originally-filed English translation of the PCT application also included, on separately numbered pages 36-40, claims 1-25 which include in the footer of the page the words "MODIFIED PAGE". Claims 1-25 shown on pages numbered 36-40 and indicated as "MODIFIED PAGE" are claims which were presented in an Amendment pursuant to Article 34 during the International Phase. Accordingly, the U.S. application entered the National Phase with claims 1-25 pending. The above amendments have been made such that these claims 1-25 have been canceled and the new claims renumbered

starting at claim 26. Claims 26-50 are believed to be pending and correctly numbered however the Office is requested to advise the undersigned if otherwise.

The attached copy of the specification also includes 26 sheets of drawings from the originally-filed application. Figure 16 has been amended however by insertion of the attached new Figure 16. A letter to the Chief Draftsperson requesting authorization to amend Figure 16 as shown in the attached marked-up copy of the same is also attached. These amendments to Figure 16 were presented in the parent application Serial No. 09/403,980 in a Preliminary Amendment dated October 29, 1999, which was acknowledged by the Patent Office without further comment in the Notification of Acceptance dated February 3, 2000 and Notification of Missing Requirements dated January 6, 2000. Specific authorization to amend Figure 16 as shown in the attached is requested.

The Examiner requested to appreciate in this regard that the originally-filed Figure 16 has been replaced by the attached amended Figure 16, which includes the missing information of the originally-filed Figure 16, as supported by the specification. No new matter has been added. Support for the change is detailed below.

Figure 16 has been amended in the "consensus" sequence, as the last two amino acids of the three sets of 10 amino acids at the right margin of the page were not included in the originally-filed Figure 16. The applicants note, however, that one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the representation of sequences in Figure 16 should have included sets of 10 amino acids and the three sets on the right margin only contain eight (see, circled and highlighted sets of amino acids). As noted in the

originally-filed Figure 16, this figure shows the alignment of SEQ ID NOs: 11, 13, 15, 14 and 12 to form the consensus SEQ ID NO: 17.

SEQ ID NOs: 11, 13, 15, 14 and 12, as originally-filed are shown in Figures 10B, 12B, 14B, 13B and 11B (copies attached with missing amino acids of original Figure 16 highlighted), respectively. One of ordinary skill would appreciate that the missing amino acids of Figure 16 are "TF" in the first set (i.e., amino acids 49 and 50 of the consensus sequence, amino acids 49 and 50 of Figure 10B, (SEQ ID NO: 11), amino acids 22 and 23 of Figure 12B (SEQ ID NO: 13), amino acids 20 and 21 of Figure 14B (SEQ ID NO: 15), amino acids 44 and 45 of Figure 13B (SEQ ID NO: 14), and amino acids 36 and 37 of Figure 11B (SEQ ID NO: 12)). Similarly, one of ordinary skill would appreciate that the missing amino acids of the second set in Figure 16 are "RK" (amino acids 99 and 100 of the consensus sequence). See, amino acids 99 and 100 of SEQ ID NO: 11 (Figure 10B), amino acids 71 and 72 of SEQ ID NO: 13 (Figure 12B), amino acids 70 and 71 of SEQ ID NO: 15 (Figure 14B), amino acids 94 and 95 of SEQ ID NO: 14 (Figure 13B) and amino acids 86 and 87 of SEQ ID NO: 12 (Figure 11B). Finally, one of ordinary skill would appreciate the amino acids missing from the third block of ten amino acids in the originally-filed Figure 16 are "SR" (amino acids 149 and 150 of the consensus sequence). See amino acids 149 and 150 of SEQ ID NO: 11 (Figure 10B), and amino acids 122 and 123 of SEQ ID NO: 13 (Figure 12B).

Moreover, the corresponding DNA consensus sequence shown in the attached copy of Figure 15 wherein the correct DNA encoding the amino acid consensus sequence of originally-filed Figure 16 is circled and highlighted, further demonstrates the applicants were in possession of the correct sequence and inserting of the attached

amended Figure 16 does not enter new matter. A separate Request to the Chief Draftsperson for approval to amend Figure 16 as noted, is attached.

A copy of the International Search Report received in connection with the parent application PCT/FR98/00883 is attached as well as PTO-1449 Forms listing documents of record in the parent application Serial No. 09/403,980. Further copies of these documents are not believed to be required at this time however the Office is requested to contact the undersigned if otherwise. Return of an initialed copy of the attached PTO-1449 Forms, pursuant to MPEP §609, is requested.

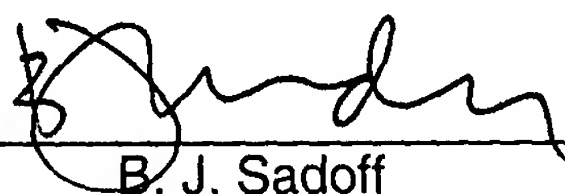
A copy of the inventors' Declaration filed January 19, 2000 as well as a copy of the inventors' Declaration filed March 20, 2000, in the parent Serial No. 09/403,980, are attached.

A copy of the Certificate of Translation filed in the parent application Serial No. 09/403,980, is also attached.

An early and favorable Action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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